

## “GROW UP & GET TO WORK!” [Part 4]

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**INTRO:** We're in a series on the book of Ephesians. Today we're going to focus on *The Mystery of Christ* in Ephesians chapter 3.

### **I. THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST REVEALED (3:1-7).**

- A. Paul was called to bring the gospel to Gentiles (vv. 1-2, 7).
- B. Paul was given the mystery of Christ by revelation (v. 3-4).
- C. This mystery was previously unknown (v. 5).
- D. This mystery was that the Gentiles & Jews would become a new humanity (2:11-18) with a common inheritance (3:6).

### **II. THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST PREACHED (3:8-13).**

- A. Paul was humble concerning his calling (v. 8).
- B. Paul was called to make known this mystery (v. 9).
- C. The church's calling to make known God's wisdom to the spirit world [both good and bad] (vv. 10-11; 1:20-21; 6:12).
- D. We have access to God with confidence (v. 12; Heb. 4:16).
- E. "Don't lose heart over my tribulations for you." (v. 13)

### **III. PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE BELIEVERS (3:14-21).**

- A. He prayed to the Father on their behalf (vv. 14-15).
- B. That they would be strengthened through His Spirit in the inner man (v. 16).
- C. That Christ would dwell in their hearts through faith (17a).
- D. That they would be rooted and grounded in love (v. 17b), and know the magnitude of Christ's love (vv. 18-19a).
- E. That they would be filled with God's fullness (v. 19b).
- F. Note the corporate emphasis, and not just personal!
- G. The closing of Paul's prayer (vv. 20-21).
  - 1. God can do way more than we ask or think.
  - 2. He can do so through His power working in us.
  - 3. May God be glorified in and through His church for ever and ever!
  - 4. Amen! So be it. So let it be, and so it will be.

**CONCLUSION:** Let's heed the primary message of the book of Ephesians and Grow Up & Get to Work! You're a fellow-heir of one new humanity – you belong in God's family!